

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05688 242125Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /057 W
-----040574 251228Z /43
R 242051Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6651

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, EWWT, AR
SUBJECT: BUENOS AIRES PORT WORKING NORMALLY

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5431

1. BUENOS AIRES PORT SOURCES REPORT THAT LONGSHOREMEN ARE WORKING NORMALLY AND THE PORT IS SLOWLY BEGINNING TO WORK ITS WAY OUT FROM UNDER THE SERIOUS BACKLOG IN CARGO TRAFFIC CAUSED BY THE RECENT STRIKE, EXACERBATED BY BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS. LOCAL SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S PLOY IN OPENING UP THE REGISTRY TO ENEMPLOYED STRIKE BREAKERS WAS THE CRITICAL FACTOR IN COMPELLING THE STRIKING STEVEDORES TO RETURN TO WORKING NIGHT SHIFTS AND WEEKENDS AT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT'S IMPOSED WORK RULE OF TIME-AND-A-HALF PAYMENT FOR OVERTIME IN LIEU OF THE DOUBLE-TIME CALLED FOR IN THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING COLLECTIVE CONTRACT. THE STRIKE MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN EASED BY RUMORS THAT THERE WOULD BE A SPECIAL INCREASE IN LONGSHOREMEN'S WAGES, BUT THESE REPORTS SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN DENIED BY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN. BASE WAGES FOR LONGSHOREMEN IN THE BUENOS AIRES PORT ARE CURRENTLY SET AT 3,700 PESOS PER 6-HOUR DAY SHIFT (ABOUT \$4.60) PLUS A
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7 PERCENT "FLEXIBILITY BONS" FOR PRODUCTIVITY AND TIME-AND-A-HALF FOR OVERTIME. IN ADDITION TO DOUBLE PAY FOR OVERTIME, THE STRIKERS WERE DEMANDING AN INCREASE IN THE "FLEXIBILITY" BONUS TO EQUAL THAT SAID TO BE PAID IN THE PORTS OF ROSARIO AND BAHIA BLANCA.

2. FYI: THE EARLY STAGES OF THE STRIKE WERE MARRED BY

A SERIES OF BOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST A PORT INSTALLATION, THE
OFFICES OF THE STATE SHIPPING LINE AND THE HOME OF THE
CAPTAIN GENERAL OF ARGENTINE PORTS. THE ORIGIN OF
THESE ATTACKS HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLICLY CLARIFIED. NO
OTHER ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR FORCE EITHER BY GOVERNMENT
SECURITY AGENCIES OR THE STRIKERS HAVE COME TO OUR
ATTENTION, HOWEVER. END FYI.
CASTRO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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